

15 APR 1955

REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1955

Issued by the Government Statistician (Mr. R. J. Little), Perth.

4th April, 1955

This report gives particulars relative to the following items:-

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POPULATION ESTIMATES

Whole State at 30th September, 1954 -

Males - 332,382

Females - 312,230

Persons 644,612

Metropolitan Area at 30th June, 1954 -

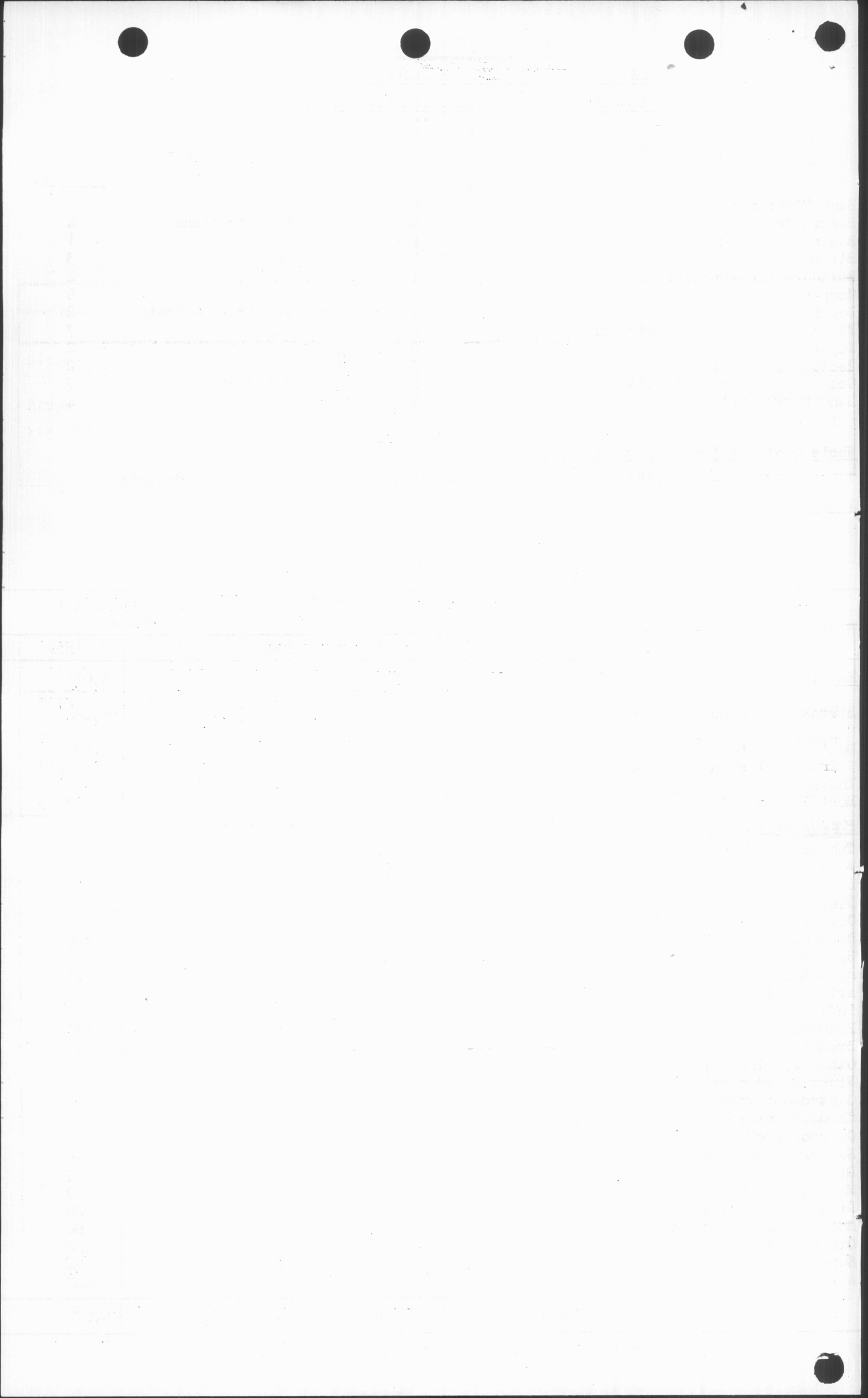
Persons - 348,500

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

	JANUARY		12 Months ended DECEMBER	
	1955	1954	1954	1953
Marriages - Number	507	475	5,204	5,032
* Rate per 1000 of Population	9.20	8.84	8.13	8.10
Births - Number	1,192	1,268	15,928	15,862
* Rate per 1000 of Population	21.63	23.61	24.89	25.54
Deaths - Number	338	454	5,364	5,072
* Rate per 1000 of Population	6.13	8.45	8.38	8.17
Infant - Number	26	31	359	378
Mortality * Rate per 1000 Live Births	21.81	24.45	22.54	23.83
<u>PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH -</u>				
Tuberculosis	3	2	61	46
Malignant neoplasms	43	65	780	738
Diabetes mellitus	6	7	55	45
Diseases of blood, etc.	1	6	16	20
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	36	57	632	577
Diseases of the heart	102	125	1,674	1,570
Hypertension with heart disease	11	17	176	155
Hypertensive disease without mention of heart	6	7	86	88
Arteriosclerosis	5	15	136	170
Influenza	-	1	31	27
Pneumonia	18	15	165	193
Bronchitis	1	4	48	47
Other respiratory disease	2	6	55	47
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	4	44	42
Gastro-enteritis and colitis	1	8	32	17
Chronic enteritis and ulcerative colitis	-	2	7	6
Cirrhosis of the liver	1	-	20	29
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	7	80	76
Disease of the prostate	1	4	53	49
Maternal causes	1	-	11	9
Diseases of early infancy	14	13	221	224
Motor Vehicle accidents	13	13	182	186
Other Accidents	21	22	196	200
Suicide	9	8	73	64
All other causes	37	46	530	447
Total:	338	454	5,364	5,072

* Equivalent Annual Rate.

* Deaths under one year.



COMPANIES REGISTERED

162 Local Companies with a nominal capital of £22,880,500 and 67 Foreign Companies were registered during the eight months ended February, 1955. Registration for the corresponding period last year comprised 130 Local Companies with a nominal capital of £10,874,003 and 51 Foreign Companies.

BANKRUPTCY

	Eight Months ended FEBRUARY					
	1955			1954		
	No.	Liabilities	Assets	No.	Liabilities	Assets
Sequestration Orders	39	74,322	33,974	30	105,409	78,444
Deeds of Assignment (a)	15	68,111	81,862	15	66,036	85,573
Deeds of Arrangement	1	1,223	274	-	-	-

(a) Includes Compositions and Schemes of Arrangement.

TRANSPORT

The operations of the State Government Railways, open for General and Passenger traffic, were as follows:-

	JANUARY		Seven Months ended JANUARY	
	1955	1954	1955	1954
Gross Earnings (a) * £.	946,500	958,400	7,145,000	6,537,300
Working Expenses (a) £.	1,031,428	1,088,198	7,874,015	7,942,850
Train Miles Run No.	659,709	606,513	4,505,490	4,183,983
Motor Bus Miles Run No.	(b) 127,397	(b) 165,345	(c) 875,335	(c) 1,093,538
<u>Passenger Journeys -</u>				
Train No.	761,443	609,176	5,426,537	4,725,779
Motor Bus No.	29,826	48,161	207,893	353,651
<u>Tonnage Carried -</u>				
Paying Goods	260,448	250,301	1,813,226	1,726,343
Livestock	9,984	9,028	83,944	83,135
Departmental (Free Freight)	82,433	53,256	542,613	436,422
Total:	352,865	312,585	2,439,783	2,245,900
<u>Net Ton Mileage of -</u>				
Paying Goods	42,098,087	43,131,213	305,879,540	295,271,166
Livestock	1,210,173	1,147,580	11,287,425	11,064,791
Departmental (Free Freight)	9,039,398	6,892,947	70,592,661	61,732,289
Total:	52,347,658	51,171,740	387,759,626	368,068,246

- (a) Includes operations of the Railway Road Service.
(b) Four weeks ended 8th January.
(c) Period ended 8th January.
* Figures liable to revision.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

(1) NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED (EXCLUDING COMMONWEALTH-OWNED VEHICLES)

	Metropolitan Area				Entire State			
	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Year 1951	4,263	2,088	51	1,836	7,914	5,730	101	3,192
Year 1952	4,088	2,006	74	1,121	8,068	5,471	112	1,939
Year 1953	4,460	1,869	57	746	8,152	5,015	76	1,239
Year 1954	6,499	2,487	34	736	11,657	6,000	70	1,267
1955 - January	391	177	2	42	688	393	3	87

(2) MOTOR VEHICLES IN USE (EFFECTIVE REGISTRATIONS) /

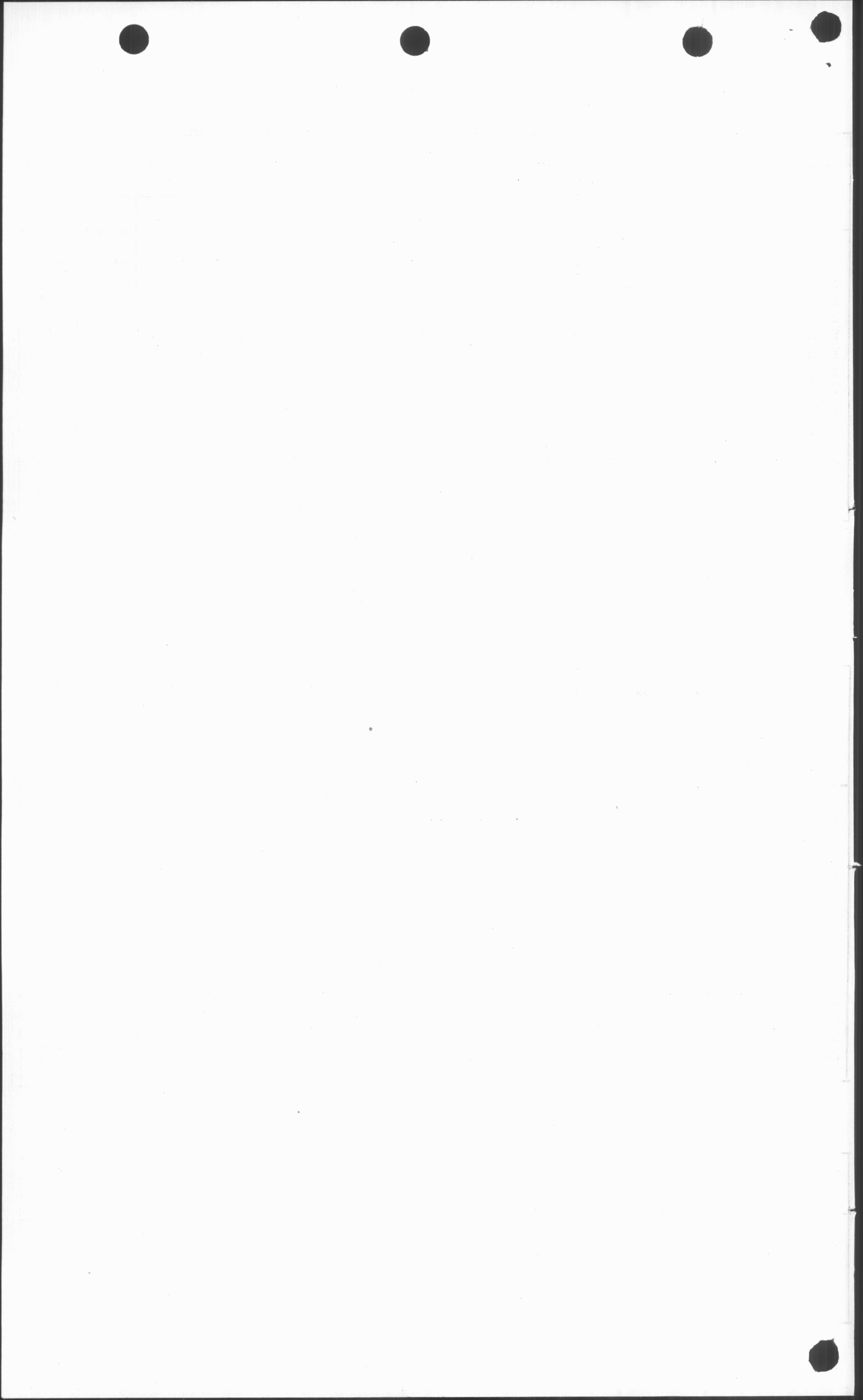
Date (as at end of Month)	Metropolitan Area				Entire State			
	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles	Cars (in- cluding Hire Cars)	Wagons, Vans, Utilities	Buses	Motor Cycles
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1952 - June	37,873	16,368	522	9,952	64,180	50,897	988	16,041
1953 - June	41,231	18,324	537	9,855	69,833	54,639	1,035	15,559
December	44,513	19,429	567	9,817	73,825	55,782	1,071	15,022
1954 - June	47,819	20,400	593	9,692	78,217	58,471	1,117	15,237
December	52,072	21,721	590	9,713	84,863	60,144	1,136	14,886

/ Excluding Commonwealth-Owned Vehicles which comprised for December, 1954:-
92 Cars; 772 Wagons, Vans, etc.; 7 Buses and 6 Motor Cycles.

TRADE (INTERSTATE AND OVERSEA)

Trade of Western Australia, January 1955 and 1954, and Seven months ended
January 1955 and 1954, expressed in terms of Australian Currency:-

	IMPORTS				EXPORTS (Including Ships' Stores)			
	JANUARY		7 Months ended JANUARY		JANUARY		7 Months ended JANUARY	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
Oversea	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Interstate	4,933	3,543	28,264	24,240	7,426	5,952	39,184	45,150
	8,714	6,946	54,459	47,985	3,595	1,077	11,188	12,885
Total:	13,647	10,489	82,723	72,225	11,021	7,029	50,372	58,035



BUILDING ACTIVITY

(1) NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED

Period	Dwellings				Factories		Other		Total	
	Owner-Built		By Contractors etc. (a)							
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000
Year 1946	55	32	1,316	1,221	52	82	145	192	1,568	1,527
Year 1947	165	109	2,245	2,380	37	64	164	327	2,611	2,880
Year 1948	514	346	2,544	3,041	49	160	268	431	3,375	3,978
Year 1949	825	693	2,485	3,476	57	215	317	657	3,684	5,041
Year 1950	1,313	1,365	3,331	4,727	41	263	428	651	5,113	7,006
Year 1951	1,913	2,835	4,137	6,969	40	459	433	986	6,523	11,249
Year 1952	2,883	5,824	4,946	11,201	63	667	604	2,424	8,496	19,934
Year 1953	2,988	7,219	4,839	12,624	84	817	714	3,657	8,625	24,317
Year 1954	3,127	8,255	5,044	13,491	111	1,544	844	5,015	9,126	28,305
1954 -										
March Qr.	715	1,827	944	2,491	22	313	163	990	1,844	5,621
June Qr.	828	2,224	1,195	3,123	22	192	187	1,043	2,232	6,582
September Qr.	771	2,071	1,292	3,431	34	837	261	1,612	2,358	7,951
December Qr.	813	2,133	1,613	4,446	33	202	233	1,370	2,692	8,151

(a) Comprises Government Day Labour as well as Private Contractor Operations and includes Shop Dwellings, Flats and other Residentials excluded from Table (2) hereunder.

(2) HOUSE CONSTRUCTION
(Includes Owner-Built Homes)

	Houses Completed - Classified According to Materials of Outer Walls									
	Brick, Stone, Concrete, etc.		Wood or Mainly Wood		Fibro-Cement or mainly Fibro-Cement		Other		Total	
	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value
		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000		£,000
Year 1946	578	640	186	140	373	296	227	172	1,364	1,248
Year 1947	1,114	1,365	257	196	966	862	62	47	2,399	2,470
Year 1948	1,252	1,715	326	249	1,436	1,348	29	22	3,043	3,334
Year 1949	1,449	2,235	228	191	1,571	1,649	42	43	3,290	4,118
Year 1950	1,709	2,882	337	311	2,262	2,572	55	48	4,363	5,813
Year 1951	2,155	4,560	453	525	2,933	4,241	190	218	5,731	9,544
Year 1952	3,006	8,097	745	1,609	3,844	6,678	135	263	7,730	16,647
Year 1953	2,676	8,417	976	2,657	3,966	8,277	24	54	7,642	19,405
Year 1954	2,865	9,767	214	530	4,823	10,833	4	4	7,906	21,134
1954 -										
March Qr.	568	1,895	82	215	970	2,115	1	1	1,621	4,226
June Qr.	731	2,463	44	107	1,199	2,631	1	1	1,975	5,202
September Qr.	726	2,485	48	109	1,195	2,733	1	1	1,970	5,328
December Qr.	840	2,924	40	99	1,459	3,354	1	1	2,340	6,378

GOLD PRODUCTION

	FEBRUARY		2 Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1955	1954	1955	1954
<u>GOLD</u>				
Quantity Fine ozs.	63,414	58,689	129,125	122,344
Value (Aust. Currency) * £.	990,845	909,185	2,017,575	1,895,303
Dividends reported by Gold Mining Companies £.	187,500	75,000	187,500	75,000

* Excludes premium on gold sold for industrial purposes.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX NUMBERS

(Base of Each Series: Weighted Average of Six Capitals for 1923/27 = 1000)

	Food and Groceries				"C" Series			
	DECEMBER QUARTER		Twelve Months ended DECEMBER		DECEMBER QUARTER		Twelve Months ended DECEMBER	
	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953
Metropolitan Area	2,798	2,656	2,802	2,608	2,502	2,314	2,459	2,295
Kalgoorlie-Boulder	2,953	2,777	2,910	2,738	2,442	2,374	2,426	2,361
Northam	2,858	2,679	2,817	2,630	2,470	2,336	2,417	2,315
Bunbury	2,853	2,708	2,841	2,636	2,512	2,344	2,447	2,314
Geraldton	2,887	2,768	2,870	2,698	2,638	2,449	2,577	2,421
Collie	2,886	2,752	2,869	2,671	2,316	2,242	2,299	2,211

ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

(Excluding Rural and Private Domestic)

Figures supplied by Commonwealth Statistician

Month	1954			1955		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
January	133,021	41,620	174,641	135,624	42,794	178,418
February	133,165	42,375	175,540			
March	133,924	42,595	176,519			
April	133,517	42,811	176,328			
May	134,347	42,768	177,115			
June	134,969	42,685	177,654			
July	134,232	42,947	177,179			
August	134,960	42,933	177,893			
September	134,947	43,186	178,133			
October	135,008	43,559	178,567			
November	135,645	43,962	179,607			
December	135,481	44,179	179,660			

INDEX OF FACTORY EMPLOYMENT (a)

Month	FACTORIES (Base: 1928/29 (19,799 Employees = 100))				
	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
January	208	214	213	223	229
February	212	216	217	223	
March	215	216	220	225	
April	215	215	221	224	
May	216	214	222	224	
June	215	211	220	226	
July	218	211	220	225	
August	217	212	220	225	
September	216	211	220	224	
October	217	212	221	226	
November	217	213	222	227	
December	215	213	223	228	

(a) Figures subsequent to June, 1953, are preliminary.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Report of

Name of Plant		Number of Plants		Date of Collection	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	
Cotton		100		1912	

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STATE BASIC WAGE

Date of Operation	Metropolitan Area		South-West Land Division		Goldfields and Rest of State	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
27/7/53	12. 6. 6	8. 0. 3	12. 6. 0	7. 19. 11	12. 9. 4	8. 2. 1

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY - METROPOLITAN AREA

(Generated by W.A. Government Power Stations)

Particulars	FEBRUARY		Eight Months ended FEBRUARY	
	1955	1954	1955	1954
Units Generated (1000 K.W.H.)	37,935	31,856	299,032	258,883
Units Sent out (1000 K.W.H.)	33,608	28,656	268,115	231,979

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERINGS IN PRINCIPAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Period	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
February, 1955	7,698	253	76,344	13,470
February, 1954	7,304	326	59,716	8,045
8 Months ended February, 1955	81,712	3,406	854,759	116,218
8 Months ended February, 1954	73,627	4,036	785,983	72,615

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

(Note - Excludes non-casualty accidents where damage was estimated to be £10 or less)

Period	Non-Casualty Accidents (Damage over £10)		Casualty Accidents		Total Accidents Reported		Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try	Metro-politan	Coun-try
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Year 1953	4,074	1,463	2,024	882	6,098	2,345	99	93	2,430	1,234
Year 1954	5,072	1,824	2,415	874	7,487	2,698	96	89	3,028	1,281
<u>1955</u> January	407	207	192	91	599	298	12	14	249	125

Year 1954	2,072	1,824	2,412	874	7,487	2,698	96	89	3,028	1,281
1955	407	207	192	91	299	298	12	14	249	122

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

(Note - Excludes non-casualty accidents where damage was estimated to be \$10 or less)

Period	Non-Casualty Accidents (Damage over \$10)		Casualty Accidents		Total Accidents Reported		Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.
Year 1953	4,074	1,463	2,024	882	6,098	2,342	92	92	2,430	1,234
Year 1954	2,072	1,824	2,412	874	7,487	2,698	96	89	3,028	1,281
1955	407	207	192	91	299	298	12	14	249	122

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

(Note - Excludes non-casualty accidents where damage was estimated to be \$10 or less)

Period	Non-Casualty Accidents (Damage over \$10)		Casualty Accidents		Total Accidents Reported		Persons Killed		Persons Injured	
	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.	Metro- politan No.	Comm- try No.
Year 1953	4,074	1,463	2,024	882	6,098	2,342	92	92	2,430	1,234
Year 1954	2,072	1,824	2,412	874	7,487	2,698	96	89	3,028	1,281
1955	407	207	192	91	299	298	12	14	249	122

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

(Note - Excludes non-casualty accidents where damage was estimated to be \$10 or less)

- 8 -
ITEMS OF FACTORY PRODUCTION (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

Item	Unit	FEBRUARY		8 Months Ended FEBRUARY	
		1955	1954	1955	1954
<u>Building Materials, etc.</u>					
Bath-Heaters - solid fuel	no.	551	843	4,934	5,318
Bricks (in terms of standard size) - Cement	'000	1,007	901	9,139	5,525
- Clay	'000	8,700	8,013	66,833	58,018
Cement, Portland	ton	9,960	10,368	92,489	78,873
Enamels	gal.	3,151	3,162	26,228	32,077
Fibrous Plaster Sheets	'000 sq.yds.	231	182	1,629	1,486
Paints (Ready Mixed) Ex- cluding Water Paints	gal.	21,518	19,375	147,358	114,512
Tiles, roofing - Cement	'000	831	522	7,235	6,303
Timber, Sawn	'000 sup.ft.	14,157(a)	14,634(a)	128,914(b)	127,005(b)
<u>Clothing</u>					
Cardigans and Pullovers	doz.	1,091	927	6,677	5,791
Raincoats (inc. Oilskins)					
Men's and Boys'	no.	1,371	1,599	16,601	16,844
Shirts (all types) Men's and Boys'	doz.	3,544	4,679	37,557	34,927
Sports Coats Men's	no.	572	168	6,358	6,048
Suits - Men's - 3 piece	no.	204	282	2,901	3,860
- 2 piece	no.	1,789	2,088	16,331	17,423
Trousers - Men's - Sport	no.	3,370	3,692	35,317	37,576
- Work (Cotton and Wool)	no.	11,650	13,545	97,559	86,927
<u>Footwear</u>					
Boots and Shoes (all types)	pair	33,507	38,450	269,462	335,386
Sandals	pair	6,200	7,903	130,290	118,558
Slippers	pair	24,595	44,727	272,929	427,352
<u>Food</u>					
Bacon and Ham	'000 lb.	538	624	5,081	5,256
Butter	'000 lb.	341	413	13,407	12,088
Cheese	'000 lb.	19	66	2,113	2,408
Confectionery (not chocolate)	'000 lb.	265	278	2,579	2,245
Jams	'000 lb.	77	78	432	543
Margarine	'000 lb.	94	79	744	717
Oatmeal	cwt.	3,844	8,102	28,118	63,611
Sauce - Tomato	pint	49,028	68,925	438,374	467,346
<u>Miscellaneous</u>					
Acids - Hydrochloric	cwt.	145	118	864	898
- Nitric	cwt.	24	12	128	130
- Sulphuric	ton	15,427	12,284	100,523	97,591
Cycles, Pedal	no.	750	626	5,812	5,631
Gas Produced	million cu.ft.	99	99	970	950
Mattresses - Inner Spring	no.	1,699	1,884	14,249	12,857
- Woven Wire	no.	3,425	2,725	23,300	19,374
- Soft Filled	no.	3,627	3,661	27,645	29,855
Motor Vehicle Bodies -					
Truck Trays	no.	79	85	698	719
Utilities (all types)	no.	19	13	235	154
Trailers (all types)	no.	20	26	132	104
Perambulators	no.	56	86	522	737

(a) January Figures, February unavailable.

(b) Seven Months ended January.

